



File Code: 1570 (215)
#13-01-00-0039

Date: August 7, 2013

Michael Garrity
Executive Director
Alliance for the Wild Rockies
PO Box 505
Helena, MT 59624

**CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN
RECEIPT REQUESTED
NUMBER: 7011 2970 0002 2703 6331**

Dear Mr. Garrity:

This is my decision on disposition of the appeal you filed, on behalf of the Alliance for the Wild Rockies, regarding the Pilgrim Creek Timber Sale Project Record of Decision (ROD) on the Kootenai National Forest.

My review of your appeal was conducted pursuant to, and in accordance with, 36 CFR 215.18 to ensure the analysis and decision are in compliance with applicable laws, regulations, policy, and orders. I have reviewed the appeal record, including your arguments, the information referenced in the Forest Supervisor's July 5, 2013 transmittal letter, and the Appeal Reviewing Officer's analysis and recommendation (copy enclosed). The transmittal letter provides the specific page references to discussions in the ROD and project file, which bear upon your objections. I specifically incorporate in this decision the appeal record, the references and citations contained in the transmittal letter, and the Appeal Reviewing Officer's analysis and recommendation.

The Appeal Reviewing Officer has considered your arguments, the appeal record, and the transmittal letter and recommends the Forest Supervisor's decision be affirmed and that the Forest review Squires 2009 and Squires 2010 to determine whether the BA and EIS need to be updated in light of this information. She further recommends your other requested relief be denied.

Based upon a review of the references and citations provided by the Forest Supervisor, I find the objections were adequately considered in the ROD with the exception of the two Squires references. I agree with the Appeal Reviewing Officer's analysis and conclusions in regard to your appeal objections. I find the Forest Supervisor has made a reasoned decision, but needs to review Squires 2009 and Squires 2010.



After careful consideration of the above factors, I affirm the Forest Supervisor's decision to implement the Pilgrim Creek Timber Sale Project following the Forest's review of Squires 2009 and Squires 2010 and determination whether the BA and EIS need to be updated in light of this information. Your other requested relief is denied.

My decision constitutes the final administrative determination of the Department of Agriculture [36 CFR 215.18(c)].

Sincerely,


JANE L. COTTRELL
Deputy Regional Forester

cc: Paul Bradford, Janis L Bouma, Ray G Smith, Allen Byrd